

CHAPTER 11 GAMBLING GAMES

491—11.1(99F) Definitions.

“*Administrator*” means the administrator of the commission.

“*Coin*” means tokens, nickels, and quarters of legal tender.

“*Commission*” means the racing and gaming commission.

“*Distributor’s license*” means a license issued by the administrator to any entity that sells, leases, or otherwise distributes gambling games to any entity licensed to conduct gambling games pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99F.

“*EPROM*” means a computer chip that stores erasable, programmable, read-only memory.

“*Facility*” means an entity licensed by the commission to conduct gaming operations in Iowa.

“*Facility grounds*” means all real property utilized by the facility in the conduct of its gaming activity, including the grandstand, concession stands, offices, parking lots, and any other areas under the jurisdiction of the commission.

“*Gambling game*” means any game of chance approved by the commission for wagering, including, but not limited to, gambling games authorized by this chapter.

“*Government sponsored enterprise debt instrument*” means a negotiable, senior, noncallable debt obligation issued by an agency of the United States or an entity sponsored by an agency of the United States that on the date of funding possesses an issuer credit rating equivalent to the highest investment grade rating given by Standard & Poor’s or Moody’s Investment Services.

“*Implement of gambling*” means any device or object determined by the administrator to directly or indirectly influence the outcome of a gambling game; collect wagering information while directly connected to a slot machine; or be integral to the conduct of a commission-authorized gambling game, possession or use of which is otherwise prohibited by statute.

“*Manufacturer’s license*” means a license issued by the administrator to any entity that assembles, fabricates, produces, or otherwise constructs a gambling game or implement of gambling used in the conduct of gambling games pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99F.

“*Qualified investment*” means an Iowa state issued debt instrument, a United States Treasury debt instrument or a government sponsored enterprise debt obligation.

“*Slot machine*” means a mechanical or electronic gambling game device into which a player may deposit coins, currency, or other form of cashless wagering and from which certain numbers of credits are paid out when a particular configuration of symbols or events is displayed on the machine.

491—11.2(99F) Conduct of all gambling games.

11.2(1) *Commission policy.* It is the policy of the commission to require that all facilities conduct gambling games in a manner suitable to protect the public health, safety, morals, good order, and general welfare of the state. Responsibility for the employment and maintenance of suitable methods of operation rests with the facility. Willful or persistent use or toleration of methods of operation deemed unsuitable in the sole discretion of the commission will constitute grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including license revocation.

11.2(2) *Activities prohibited.* A facility is expressly prohibited from the following activities:

- a. Failing to conduct advertising and public relations activities in accordance with decency, dignity, good taste, and honesty.
- b. Permitting persons who are visibly intoxicated to participate in gaming activity.
- c. Failing to comply with or make provision for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and rules pertaining to the operation of a facility including payment of license fees, withholding payroll taxes, and violations of alcoholic beverage laws or regulations.

d. Possessing, or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, any associated gambling equipment which may have in any manner been marked, tampered with, or otherwise placed in a condition or operated in a manner which might affect the game and its payouts.

e. Permitting, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any cheating.

f. Possessing or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any cheating device whatsoever; or conducting, carrying on, operating, or dealing any cheating or thieving game or device on the grounds.

g. Possessing or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any gambling device which tends to alter the normal random selection of criteria which determines the results of the game or deceives the public in any way.

h. Failing to conduct gaming operations in accordance with proper standards of custom, decorum, and decency; or permitting any type of conduct that reflects negatively on the state or acts as a detriment to the gaming industry.

i. Denying a commissioner or commission representative, upon proper and lawful demand, information or access to inspect any portion of the gaming operation.

11.2(3) *Gambling aids.* No person shall use, or possess with the intent to use, any calculator, computer, or other electronic, electrical, or mechanical device that:

a. Assists in projecting the outcome of a game.

b. Keeps track of cards that have been dealt.

c. Keeps track of changing probabilities.

11.2(4) *Wagers.* Wagers may only be made:

a. By a person present at a facility.

b. In the form of chips, coins, or other cashless wagering system.

c. By persons 21 years of age or older.

491—11.3(99F) *Gambling games approved by the commission.* The commission may approve a gambling game by administrative rule, resolution, or motion.

491—11.4(99F) *Approval for distribution or operation of gambling games and implements of gambling.*

11.4(1) *Approval.* Prior to distribution, a distributor shall request that the administrator inspect, investigate, and approve a gambling game or implement of gambling for compliance with commission rules or the standards required by a commission contract with an independent testing facility. The distributor, at its own expense, must provide the administrator with information and product sufficient to determine the integrity and security of the product, including independent testing conducted or contracted by the commission.

11.4(2) *Trial period.* Prior to or after commission approval and after completing a review of a proposed gambling game, the administrator may require a trial period of up to 180 days to test the gambling game in a facility. During the trial period, minor changes in the operation or design of the gambling game may be made with prior approval of the administrator. During the trial period, a gambling game distributor shall not be entitled to receive revenue of any kind from the operation of that gambling game.

11.4(3) *Gambling game submissions.* Prior to conducting a commission-authorized gambling game or for a trial period, a facility shall submit proposals for game rules, procedures, wagers, shuffling procedures, dealing procedures, cutting procedures, and payout odds. The gambling game submission, or requests for modification to an approved submission, shall be in writing and approved by the administrator or a commission representative prior to implementation.

11.4(4) *Public notice.* The public shall have access to the rules of play, payout schedules, and permitted wagering amounts. Signage shall be conspicuously posted on the gaming floor to direct patrons to the gaming floor area where this information can be viewed. All participants in all licensed gambling games are required to know and follow the rules of play. No forms of cheating shall be permitted.

11.4(5) Operation. Each gambling game shall operate and play in accordance with the representation made to the commission and the public at all times. The administrator or commission representative may order the withdrawal of any gambling game suspected of malfunction or misrepresentation, until all deficiencies are corrected.

491—11.5(99F) Gambling games authorized.

11.5(1) Dice, craps, roulette, twenty-one (blackjack), big six—roulette, red dog, baccarat, and poker are authorized as table games.

11.5(2) Slot machines, video poker, and all other video games of chance, both progressive and non-progressive, shall be allowed as slot machine games, subject to the administrator's approval of individual slot machine prototypes and game variations. For racetrack enclosures without a table games license, video machines which simulate table games of chance shall not be allowed.

11.5(3) The administrator is authorized to approve variations of approved gambling games and bonus features or progressive wagers associated with approved gambling games, subject to the requirements of rule 11.4(99F).

11.5(4) Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities at a facility.

a. Proposals. Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities occurring at a facility shall be authorized and approved by the commission. Before a facility may conduct such gambling games, all proposals for terms, game rules, prizes, dates of operation and procedures for any gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded through promotional activities occurring at a facility shall be submitted in writing to a commission representative for approval. The written submission shall be submitted to the commission representative at least 14 days in advance of the planned activity. Any changes to an approved gambling game of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities shall also require the approval of the commission representative. Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities occurring at a facility shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) All rules of play shall be in writing and posted for public inspection;
- (2) Such games shall be limited to participants 21 years of age or older;
- (3) All games shall be conducted in a fair and honest manner, and all prizes advertised shall be awarded in accordance with the posted rules of play;
- (4) All such games shall be conducted within the regulated area of the facility and shall be conducted in accordance with the submission approved by the commission representative;
- (5) No entry fees shall be permitted; and
- (6) All employees of the facility shall be prohibited from participation.

b. Limits. Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities conducted at a facility shall be subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. However, in determining the adjusted gross receipts, the facility may consider all nonmonetary consideration expended by a participant and shall certify to the commission that the nonmonetary consideration is at least equal to the value of the prizes awarded.

491—11.6(99F) Gambling game-based tournaments and contests.

11.6(1) Proposals. Proposals for terms, game rules, entry fees, prizes, dates, and procedures must be submitted in writing and approved by a commission representative before a facility conducts any tournament or contest. Any changes to approved tournaments and contests must be submitted to the commission representative for review and approval prior to being implemented. Rules, fees, and a schedule of prizes must be made available to the player prior to entry.

11.6(2) Limits. Tournaments and contests must be based on gambling games authorized by the commission. Entry fees, less prizes paid, are subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. In determining adjusted gross receipts, to the extent that prizes paid out exceed entry fees received, the facility shall be deemed to have paid the fees for the participants.

491—11.7(99F) Table game requirements.

11.7(1) Removable storage media in a table game device which controls the randomness of card shufflers or progressive table game meters shall be verified and sealed with evidence tape by a commission representative prior to implementation.

11.7(2) Wagers. All wagers at table games shall be made by placing gaming chips or coins on the appropriate areas of the layout.

11.7(3) Craps. Wagers must be made before the dice are thrown. “Call bets,” or the calling out of bets between the time the dice leave the shooter’s hand and the time the dice come to rest, not accompanied by the placement of gaming chips, are not allowed.

11.7(4) Twenty-one.

a. Before the first card is dealt for each round of play, each player shall make a wager against the dealer. Once the first card of any hand has been dealt by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter any wagers that have been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager. Once a wager on the insurance line, a wager to double down, or a wager to split pairs has been made and confirmed by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter the wagers until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager, except as explicitly permitted. A facility or licensee shall not permit any player to engage in conduct that violates this paragraph.

b. At the conclusion of a round of play, all cards still remaining on the layout shall be picked up by the dealer in a prescribed order and in such a way that they can be readily arranged to indicate each player’s hand in case of question or dispute. The dealer shall pick up the cards beginning with those of the player to the far right and moving counterclockwise around the table. The dealer’s hand will be the last hand collected. The cards will then be placed on top of the discard pile. No player or spectator shall handle, remove, or alter any cards used to game at twenty-one or be permitted to do so by a casino employee.

c. Each player at the table shall be responsible for correctly computing the point count of the player’s hand. No player shall rely on the point counts announced by the dealer without checking the accuracy of such announcement.

11.7(5) Roulette.

a. No person at a roulette table shall be issued or permitted to game with nonvalue gaming chips that are identical in color and design to value gaming chips or to nonvalue gaming chips being used by another person at that same table.

b. Each player shall be responsible for the correct positioning of the player’s wager on the roulette layout, regardless of whether the player is assisted by the dealer. Each player must ensure that any instructions the player gives to the dealer regarding the placement of the player’s wager are correctly carried out.

c. Each wager shall be settled strictly in accordance with its position on the layout when the ball falls to rest in a compartment of the wheel.

11.7(6) Big six—roulette.

a. Each player shall be responsible for the correct positioning of the player’s wager on the layout regardless of whether the player is assisted by the dealer.

b. Each wager shall be settled strictly in accordance with its position on the layout when the wheel stops with the winning indicator in a compartment of the wheel.

11.7(7) Poker.

a. When a facility conducts poker with an impress dealer gaming chip bank, the rules in 491—Chapter 12 for closing and distributing or removing gaming chips to or from gaming tables do not apply. The entire amount of the table rake is subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. Proposals for impress dealer gaming chip banks must be submitted in writing and approved by a commission representative prior to use.

b. All games shall be played according to table stakes game rules as follows:

- (1) Only gaming chips or coins on the table at the start of a deal shall be in play for that pot.
- (2) Concealed gaming chips or coins shall not play.
- (3) A player with gaming chips may add additional gaming chips between deals, provided that the player complies with any minimum buy-in requirement.

(4) A player is never obliged to drop out of contention because of insufficient gaming chips to call the full amount of a bet, but may call for the amount of gaming chips the player has on the table. The excess part of the bet made by other players is either returned to the players or used to form a side pot.

c. Each player in a poker game is required to act only in the player's own best interest. The facility has the responsibility of ensuring that any behavior designed to assist one player over another is prohibited. The facility may prohibit any two players from playing in the same game.

d. Poker games where winning wagers are paid by the facility according to specific payout odds or pay tables are permitted.

11.7(8) Red dog. Before the first card is dealt for each round of play, each player shall make a wager against the dealer. Once the first card of any hand has been dealt by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter any wagers that have been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager. Once a wager to double down has been made and confirmed by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter the wagers until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager, except as explicitly permitted.

491—11.8(99F) Keno.

11.8(1) Keno shall be conducted using an automated ticket writing and redemption system where a game's winning numbers are selected by a random number generator.

11.8(2) Each game shall consist of the selection of 20 numbers out of 80 possible numbers, 1 through 80.